

This morning I enter the 26th day of what has been a great adventure thus far. On one hand there is so much to do when it comes to running the city- meetings, meetings, and, have I mentioned, meetings?

On the other hand, I have a whole plan set out for each day when I come in, but before I know it, it's 8 p.m. and I am still sitting in my office. I am not complaining though, I absolutely love this job.

I would like to thank *The Record* for this opportunity to address the people of Troy after just three full weeks in office. To start, I want to briefly discuss for the final time why I want two deputy mayors in my administration.

Since my administration has taken office, we have cut more than \$140,000 in salaries after the new hires are included. That is \$140,000 in positions that will not be filled, and will save the taxpayers of Troy money.

Instead of having politically motivated positions like the Chief of Staff, I have hired people into positions with titles that answer to the big boss- the people of Troy. These people are not planning political strategies with me, or spending their days outside of City Hall. They are working for you.

Call it reorganization if you like. There will be more of it in the future. We are currently taking an extremely close look at the way city government runs. With tough economic times ahead, it will be imperative that we function for some time at lower levels than in the past. We have begun to do that. That will not however, affect the services residents receive. If anything, services will improve.

Before the regular February Council meeting, I will give my first State of the City address, an opportunity I am looking forward to. After just three weeks in office I have already learned so much, and began to put a plan into motion that I believe will help the city for years to come.

I feel it is imperative that I thank one group of people that have made this transition in administrations a relatively smooth one- the employees of the city. In less than one month, I have had the opportunity to stand with firefighters in a cold that would make most people scurry for cover. These men fought a fire for hours without complaint. They were just doing their job, but it is a job that needs to be commended as much as possible.

I have had the opportunity to act on a resident complaint and clean up an alley. As I stood with supervisors and helped decide the course of action last week, more than 20 workers from sanitation cleaned up a ridiculous mess in a Lansingburgh alley. It was not fun work, but they did it with smiles on their faces. One of them even said, "It's about time we do something like this."

I had the opportunity a day later to look on with enjoyment as we swore in six new police officers that will protect this city for generations to come. They will transform into a tightly knit group of officers that will make us all proud.

Lastly, I have had the ultimate pleasure of dealing with people inside of City Hall. Many of those I have seen have been re-energized. Code enforcement has been out on the street enforcing laws that have been ignored recently. Our computer department was been reconfigured and is prepared to finally have the city move into the 21st century.

I have had multiple conversations with the planning and engineering departments and indicated a possible change in the future. They were more than receptive.

I look forward to many of these columns and I look forward to the future of the city. I've said many times in the past two months that there will be bumps in the road. That has not changed. However, as we move into the future by building on the past, I have always believed Troy was on the path to greatness. That belief has been reinforced thanks to my first few weeks in office.